

Wisconsin Deer Donation 2005

An Information Packet for:
Charitable Organizations who would like to participate in
Wisconsin Deer Donation 2005

This packet contains the following items which explain how Wisconsin Deer Donation 2005 works, and outline what you'll need to do to participate:

Getting started

1. General information about Wisconsin Deer Donation 2005—which counties can participate & how the program works.
2. Outline of what you'll need to do to participate in Wisconsin Deer Donation 2005.
3. A sheet for you to provide contact information for your organization to the county or their authorized representative, once you decide to participate in Wisconsin Deer Donation 2005.

Picking up the processed venison

4. Instructions for picking up the donated, processed venison, included in #2 above.
5. Contact information for processors for which you'll be responsible for picking up venison (this will be filled out by the county).
6. A copy of the "Distribution of Venison to Charitable Organization Log", which you must fill out and sign each time you pick up processed venison from the processing facility (the processing facilities will each have a Log—this is an example copy only).

Distribution of the processed venison

7. Your responsibility to transport, store, and distribute the donated venison, included in #2 above.
8. Confirmation that no fee of any type can be charged to any person or organization for the donated venison, included in #2 above.

And other helpful information . . .

9. A list of people to call when you have questions.

We hope that the information contained in this packet will help to answer many of your questions. If at any time you have questions, feel free to call us (the WDNR WDACP) at 608-267-7974, Laurie Fike, or 608-266-2151, Bryan Woodbury, and we'll try to help you out!

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WHICH COUNTIES CAN PARTICIPATE & WHO ORGANIZES IT?

When did it start, and who can participate?

State statute 29.89 was passed in the summer of 2000, for the first time authorizing the use of Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP) funds to fund processing of venison for donation to food pantries. Three conditions must be met before venison processing can be funded in any given year:

1. **The WDACP must have adequate funds to fund administration, abatement, and claims costs for the county WDACP before funds can be allotted to venison processing.** Funding for the WDACP comes from a \$1 surcharge on hunting licenses and from bonus deer permit revenues. Large numbers of bonus permits sold in recent years allowed us to fund Wisconsin Deer Donation Program. The decision to fund the program or not is made each spring, based on available funds and predicted future expenses. *Funding for Wisconsin Deer Donation 2005 will reduce funding available for WDACP administration, abatement and claim costs in future years which may result in the proration of damage claims in 2005.*
2. **The county must be enrolled in the WDACP.** The WDACP is a program that assists farmers when wildlife damages their agricultural crops. The WDACP provides both damage prevention assistance and partial compensation to farmers when wild deer, bear, geese and turkey damage their crops. Deer damage accounts for over 95% of program expenditures. Currently 70 of 72 counties in Wisconsin are enrolled in the WDACP (Kenosha and Menominee counties are not enrolled).
3. **The deer processed must have been taken outside of the Chronic Wasting Disease Eradication Zone (DEZ).** Only deer registered with a silver metal tag signifying the deer was taken outside of the CWD DEZ are eligible for donation to Wisconsin Deer Donation 2005. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) initiated another deer donation program for deer harvested in the CWD DEZ. The DNR has contracted with local processors to collect DEZ harvest deer (registered with a red metal tag). Once the deer has tested negative for CWD, the deer will be processed into ground venison and donated to local food pantries. **This program is not administered or funded by the WDACP.** To obtain venison for your pantry from this program please contact Joe Brusca, South Central Region Air and Waste Leader at 608-275-3296.

Last year, hunters donated 10,938 deer, and processors processed approximately 500,000 pounds of venison! Food pantries then distributed this venison to thousands of needy people around the state!

How does it work—i.e. who runs it?

Because the program is funded through the WDACP, it is organized and implemented in a similar fashion as the WDACP. That is, each county has local control & the authority to determine how to run the program in their county. Last year, many counties opted to work closely with an existing non-profit organization, Hunt for the Hungry, headed by Lee Dudek, to implement Wisconsin Deer Donation 2003. We are strongly encouraging that again in 2005—in many cases Lee will be the 'point person' that you can call whenever you have a question.

Other counties established new programs independently last year, and will likely do so in 2005. In these counties, your 'point person' will likely be with the county Land and Water Conservation Department in that county.

47 counties contract WDACP program services to USDA-Wildlife Services, and in these counties USDA-Wildlife Services either worked with Hunt for the Hungry, or established a new program independently last year. We expect a similar situation in 2005. In these cases, your 'point person' will be listed on your agreement, so you'll know exactly who to call when you have questions about any aspect of the program.

The last organization involved is the state WDACP office in the Wisconsin DNR in Madison. This office oversees the WDACP and Wisconsin Deer Donation program throughout the state. If you are ever unsure who to call, you can call us at 608-267-7974 - Laurie Fike, or 608-266-2151 - Bryan Woodbury.

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A QUICK SUMMARY OF HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

Wisconsin Deer Donation 2005 at a glance

The Wisconsin Deer Donation program is designed to use existing Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program (WDACP) funds to pay for processing of deer harvested and donated by hunters in Wisconsin. The venison is then processed and distributed (free of charge) to needy people across the state of Wisconsin. The focus of the program allows hunters to shoot additional deer and help reduce the state's deer population. The program allows hunters to shoot extra deer, removes financial costs to the hunter and the venison is not wasted but is distributed to needy families throughout Wisconsin. The intent of the program is to reduce the deer herd and hopefully to reduce agricultural damage in the future. Through the program, needy families receive high quality nutritious meat, and hunters help manage Wisconsin's deer herd by harvesting additional deer and donating those deer to a worthwhile cause. For all involved, the program promotes a positive public image of deer hunting, the organizations involved, and those who participate in and promote Wisconsin deer hunting. **In short, everyone involved benefits!**

A quick summary of how the program works

Counties: Counties (or their agents—USDA-Wildlife Services or a non-profit organization) are responsible for setting up the program, organizing venison processors and food pantries in their county to accept, process, transfer, and distribute the ground venison, advertising, and paying the bills. They'll be the ones you sign an agreement to participate with, and they're the best ones to ask when you have questions.

Hunters: Hunters need only do six simple things to participate in Wisconsin Deer Donation 2005:

1. Legally harvest a deer outside of the Chronic Wasting Disease DEZ during any hunting season.
2. Field dress the deer.
3. Register the deer at a Wisconsin DNR registration station.
4. Call a participating processor to verify that the processor has space to accept the hunter's deer.
5. Drop the deer off at the participating processor, during regular business hours, by December 31.
6. Sign a simple log-in sheet at the processor to verify their donation. Hunters must donate the entire deer to receive the processing costs for free. The head and antlers may be removed for mounting.

The participating meat processors and food pantries take it from there, processing the donated venison and distributing it to needy people across the state.

Processors: Processors must sign an agreement to participate in Wisconsin Deer Donation 2005 with a county WDACP representative, and agree to follow all of the terms of that agreement. The processor must have or acquire a license for their processing facility from the US Department of Agriculture or the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection. The participating processor accepts donations, and verifies that hunters log their deer in on the 'Hunter Deer Donation Log Sheets.' The processor then grinds, packages and freezes the donated meat. When the processor collects a sizable amount of venison (or runs out of space!), the processor calls the contact person indicated on their agreement to pick up the ground venison. One of the participating charitable organization representatives or volunteers picks up the meat within 48 hours and distributes it to the participating food pantries.

Charitable Organizations (Food pantries/Food distribution services): (A summary of your role—you'll find all the details on the next sheet.) Food pantries or other charitable organizations with adequate facilities to store and distribute ground venison can participate in Wisconsin Deer Donation 2005 by contacting the county WDACP representative. The county's representative will go over the rules of the program with you, and let you know which processors your organization will be responsible for picking up meat from. The pantry then is responsible for picking up the ground venison from the processor(s) within 48 hours of notification by the processor, and distributing the frozen ground venison, at no charge, to needy individuals in the area.

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THE DETAILS: WHAT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS NEED TO DO TO PARTICIPATE

Charitable food pantries or food distribution services in Wisconsin can participate in Wisconsin Deer Donation 2005 by taking the following steps:

Getting started

1. Determine that you have adequate facilities and freezer space to store and distribute large amounts of frozen ground venison to needy people in Wisconsin.
2. Talk with the county (or their authorized representative) about the details of the amount of venison you're able to accept, and guidelines for distributing the venison and keeping required records.
3. Provide complete contact information for your organization to the county (or their authorized representative) (*A blank form is enclosed for you to fill out and give to them.*)
4. Display a Wisconsin Deer Donation 2005 poster (provided by the county or county's representative) to advertise that you are participating in Wisconsin Deer Donation 2005.
5. Display the notice for venison recipients from the Department of Health and Family Services.

Picking up the ground venison from the processor

6. The county (or their authorized representative) will inform you of the processor(s) for which you will be responsible for picking up venison from (*see enclosed sheet*). You are then responsible for picking up venison from these processor(s) within 48 hours of the processor(s) contacting you.
7. Accept only venison packages that are labeled "VENISON, NOT FOR SALE" and list the NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PROCESSING FACILITY or the LICENSE NUMBER of the processing facility. This is required by federal and state law. Do not accept any venison that is not properly packaged and labeled, or any venison that is of questionable quality. Please notify the county (or their authorized representative) of any meat that is not properly packaged and labeled or is of questionable quality.
8. Fill out and sign the "Distribution of Venison to Charitable Organization Log" each time a member of your charitable organization picks up venison from a processing facility. The log simply documents the date that you make each pick-up, and the number of pounds that you receive at each pick-up. This log will be retained by the processing facility, and submitted with their billing invoice to document pick-up of the venison. *An example of this log is enclosed, so you'll know what to look for.*

Distributing the ground venison

9. Have adequate freezer space to be able to store the frozen ground venison before distribution. All frozen venison must be stored at 10° or below; all chilled venison must be stored at 41° or below.
10. **Important: Your organization cannot charge any type of fee to any person or organization for the donated venison, including any type of handling fee or shared maintenance fee.** Sale of any venison is prohibited, and will be prosecuted under section 29.48, Wis. Stats., which is a crime with a penalty of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$2,000 fine or imprisonment for not more than 6 months or both.

That's it! Thank you for participating in Wisconsin Deer Donation 2005!

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CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION CONTACT INFORMATION

Please provide the following contact information for your organization to the county or their authorized representative, so that we can tell processors how to reach you when they need venison picked up:

Name of Charitable Organization: _____

Primary Contact Person: _____

Street address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Office Phone Number: _____

Other Phone Number: _____

Days and hours this charitable organization is open to receive donations of ground venison:

Days: _____

Hours: _____

Additional people to contact during business hours:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Times _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Times _____

Additional people to contact after business hours:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Times _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Times _____

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CONTACT INFORMATION FOR MEAT PROCESSORS THAT YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PICKING UP VENISON FROM

Remember,

- You are responsible for picking up venison from the processors listed below *within 48 hours* of being contacted by them.
- You will need to sign a 'Distribution of Processed Venison to Charitable Organization Log' acknowledging the transfer of ground venison each time you pick up venison from a processing facility (each processor will have a log at their facility for you to sign).
- Your organization cannot charge any type of fee to any person or organization for the donated venison, including any type of handling fee or shared maintenance fee. Sale of any venison is prohibited, and will be prosecuted under section 29.48, Wis. Stats., which is a crime with a penalty of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$2,000 fine or imprisonment for not more than 6 months or both.

Thank you for volunteering to transport and distribute venison for Wisconsin Deer Donation 2005!

Name of processing facility: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone number: _____

Hours of operation: _____

Name of processing facility: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone number: _____

Hours of operation: _____

Name of processing facility: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone number: _____

Hours of operation: _____

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DISTRIBUTION OF PROCESSED VENISON TO CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION LOG

Name of Processor: _____

Address: _____

County: _____

Pick up date	Pantry Name	Number of pounds of venison	Signed for by (food pantry representative or volunteer):
<i>Example: 11/1/05</i>	<i>XYZ Pantry</i>	<i>200 lbs</i>	<i>John Doe</i>
Total			

Thank you for participating in Wisconsin Deer Donation 2005!

Note: This form is to be retained by the processor until it is submitted to accompany the corresponding processor invoice.

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WHO TO CALL WHEN YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

Counties or their agents: When you have a question, your 'point person' (that is the person you talked with about participating in Wisconsin Deer Donation 2005) should be your first place to look for the answer. In some cases that will be the Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program (WDACP) in your county. These people are listed below. Depending on where you are in the state, you may be talking with a county Land Conservation Department, or with the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Wildlife Services (either their Waupun or Rhinelander office).

County	Contact Person	Phone number	County	Contact Person	Phone number
Adams	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688	Marinette	Andy Birch	715-732-7781
Ashland	Dave Schultz	715-682-7187	Marquette	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688
Barron	USDA-Rhineland	1-800-228-1368	Menominee	Not in program	
Bayfield	Dave Schultz	715-682-7187	Milwaukee	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688
Brown	Jon Bechle	920-391-4620	Monroe	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688
Buffalo	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688	Oconto	Chad Trudell	920-834-5688, ext 8
Burnett	Cindy Blonk	715-349-2186	Oneida	Nancy Hollands	715-362-5941, ext 3
Calumet	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688	Outagamie	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688
Chippewa	USDA-Rhineland	1-800-228-1368	Ozaukee	Jeff Bell	262-284-8274
Clark	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688	Pepin	USDA-Rhineland	1-800-228-1368
Columbia	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688	Pierce	USDA-Rhineland	1-800-228-1368
Crawford	Greg Cerven	608-647-5813	Polk	Cindy Blonk	715-349-2186
Dane	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688	Portage	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688
Dodge	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688	Price	USDA-Rhineland	1-800-228-1368
Door	Vinnie Chomeau	920-746-2214	Racine	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688
Douglas	Dave Schultz	715-682-7187	Richland	Greg Cerven	608-647-5813
Dunn	USDA-Rhineland	1-800-228-1368	Rock	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688
Eau Claire	Bill Nichols	715-839-6226	Rusk	USDA-Rhineland	1-800-228-1368
Florence	USDA-Rhineland	1-800-228-1368	St. Croix	Cindy Blonk	715-349-2186
Fond du Lac	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688	Sauk	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688
Forest	USDA-Rhineland	1-800-228-1368	Sawyer	Dale Olsen	715-634-6463
Grant	Greg Cerven	608-647-5813	Shawano	Blake Schuebel	715-526-9239
Green	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688	Sheboygan	Patrick Miles	920-467-5746
Green Lake	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688	Taylor	USDA-Rhineland	1-800-228-1368
Iowa	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688	Trempealeau	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688
Iron	Dave Schultz	715-682-7187	Vernon	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688
Jackson	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688	Vilas	USDA-Rhineland	1-800-228-1368
Jefferson	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688	Walworth	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688
Juneau	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688	Washburn	Brad Robole	715-635-2453
Kenosha	Not in program		Washington	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688
Kewaunee	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688	Waukesha	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688
La Crosse	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688	Waupaca	Bruce Bushweiler	715-258-6245
Lafayette	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688	Waushara	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688
Langlade	USDA-Rhineland	1-800-228-1368	Winnebago	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688
Lincoln	USDA-Rhineland	1-800-228-1368	Wood	Darrin Johnson	715-421-8547
Manitowoc	USDA-Waupun	1-800-433-0688			
Marathon	USDA-Rhineland	1-800-228-1368			

Non-profit organizations working with counties: In some cases, your 'point person' or primary contact will be Hunt for the Hungry. You may contact them directly at:

Hunt for the Hunger (Lee Dudek, Director, headquarters in Green Bay): 920-498-1522

The Wisconsin DNR: Finally, there is one more organization involved—the state WDACP office in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. This office is located in Madison, and oversees the WDACP and Wisconsin Deer Donation program throughout the state. If you are ever unsure who to call, call us (the WDNR WDACP) at 608-267-7974 - Laurie Fike, or 608-266-2151 - Bryan Woodbury and we'll help you out!



INFORMATION ABOUT DONATED VENISON AND CWD FOR PATRONS OF FOOD PANTRIES

This public food pantry offers venison donated by Wisconsin hunters through the Deer Donation Program. This program is administered by counties with the cooperation of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the United States Department of Agriculture. Because chronic wasting disease (CWD) has been found in a small percentage of Wisconsin deer, we are providing some basic information about CWD to ensure that you, the consumer, can make an informed choice in your selection of meat at the food pantry.

- ◆ CWD is a fatal disease that affects the nervous system of deer and elk. It has never been known to affect any other species of animal under natural conditions. The disease is caused by an abnormal protein called a prion, which can survive heat which would typically destroy disease-causing bacteria and viruses. Prions concentrate in certain tissues, such as brain, spinal cord, lymph nodes, and spleen.
- ◆ CWD has never been shown to cause illness in humans. However in Europe, a similar disease of cattle called bovine spongiform encephalopathy (also known as “mad cow disease”) is the probable cause of a fatal nervous system disease in some humans who have eaten tissues from infected cattle. Because we know that, at least in this one instance, an animal prion disease has been able to infect humans, no one can predict with absolute certainty that CWD will never cause human disease.
- ◆ Based on extensive testing, CWD appears to be confined to a relatively small area in south-central Wisconsin. Within this area, 1–2 % of the deer were found to be infected. Deer from this area are **NOT** accepted for the Deer Donation Program, and so none of the venison at food pantries come from deer in this area. In the remainder of Wisconsin outside of this CWD zone as it is now defined, approximately 29,000 deer have been tested, and none were found to have CWD. This does not guarantee that there are no infected deer outside the CWD zone, but it is very unlikely that a particular deer from outside of this zone would have CWD.
- ◆ Meat processors who are associated with the venison donation program are using boned-out meat from which most fat, connective tissue, and nerve tissue has been removed. In this way, the tissues where the prions concentrate are not included in the processed venison.

If you would like more information about CWD and its implications for human health, you can call the Wisconsin Division of Public Health at (608)267-9003 or go to the following internet sites:

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/whealth/issues/CWD/cwdbook.pdf> or

<http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/healthtips/BCD/creutzfeldt.htm>

Safe Handling of Venison

This package contains venison, or the meat from deer. This venison was donated to your food pantry as part of a deer donation program for food pantries. This meat came from deer harvested in parts of the state where the deer have tested negative for chronic wasting disease.

Cook this venison as you would beef. It is very lean meat, and often benefits from being cooked in stews and sauces. As when handling any raw meat, be sure to follow these standard food safety steps:

Clean: wash your hands with warm, soapy water for 20 seconds before and after handling raw meat.

Chill: Refrigerate fresh meat for up to 3 days, or freeze for longer storage. Thaw frozen venison in the refrigerator. Avoid storing meat at room temperature for more than 2 hours. Chill leftovers promptly.

Cook: Cook ground venison to 160°F, venison roasts to 145°F. The juices should be clear, and the meat no longer pink.

Separate: Prevent cross-contamination by storing raw meat on a plate in the refrigerator, away from cooked meat and fresh vegetables and fruits. Wash cutting boards and knives in warm, soapy water after each use. Disinfect cutting boards, knives, and surfaces with a solution of 1 teaspoon bleach in 1 quart of water.



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